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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/801,356	03/16/2004	Johan Loccufier	27500-202	2124
<div>7590 11/23/2007</div> <div>Joseph T. Guy Ph.D. Nexsen Pruet Jacobs & Pollard LLP 201 W. McBee Avenue Greenville, SC 29603</div>				
			EXAMINER SHEWAREGED, BETELHEM	
			ART UNIT 1794	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/23/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/801,356

Applicant(s)

LOCCUFIER ET AL.

Examiner

Betelhem Shewareged

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10-13 and 15-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 27-31 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's response filed on 09/14/2007 has been fully considered. Claims 1 and 7 are amended, claims 8, 9 and 14 are canceled, claims 15-31 are added, and claims 1-7, 10-13 and 15-31 are pending. (NOTE: Claims 10-13 are withdrawn from consideration as non-elected invention).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

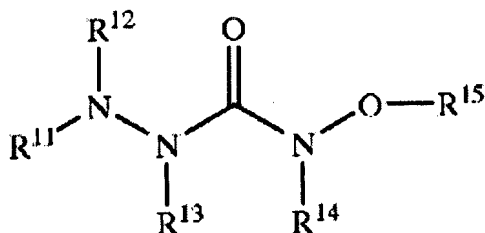
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sumioka et al. (US 2003/0072923 A1).

4. Sumioka discloses an ink jet recording material comprising a support and an ink receptive layer on the support (abstract). The ink receptive layer comprises inorganic particles such as silica, alumina and alumina hydrate [0017], a binder such as polyvinyl alcohol [0023] and a compound of formula II [0033]. The compound of formula II meets the claimed non-polymeric compound. For example, compound 33 meets the claimed non-polymeric compound.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's argument is based on that the compounds listed in the reference have additional –NR group between the carboxyl group and the remainder of the molecule. This argument is not persuasive because claim 15 does not exclude the presence of additional –NR group between the carboxyl group and the remainder of the molecule. As one example see the following compound in the reference:



wherein

R¹³ = R¹⁴ = R¹⁵ = hydrogen; and

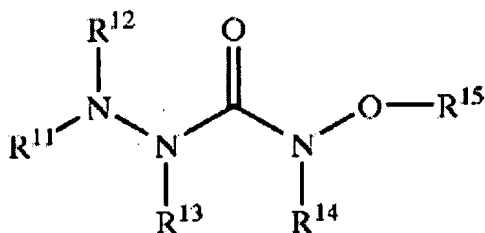
R¹¹ and R¹² form a heterocyclic ring by bonding to each other [0034].

Examples of the heterocyclic group formed by combining R¹¹ and R¹² to each other includes a pyrazine ring (which is a 6-membered ring) and a 1,2,4-triazole ring (which is a 5-membered ring) [0035]. The compounds of formula II meet the claimed compound when R⁸ is hydrogen and R⁹ is substituted or unsubstituted aromatic rings.

6. Claims 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sumioka et al. (US 2003/0072923 A1).
7. Sumioka discloses an ink jet recording material comprising a support and an ink receptive layer on the support (abstract). The ink receptive layer comprises inorganic particles such as silica, alumina and alumina hydrate [0017], a binder such as polyvinyl alcohol [0023] and a compound of formula II [0033]. The compound of formula II meets the claimed non-polymeric compound. For example, compound 37 meets the claimed non-polymeric compound.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's argument is based on that the compounds listed in the reference have additional –NR group between the carboxyl group and the remainder of the molecule. This argument is not persuasive because claim 21 does not exclude the presence of additional –NR group between the carboxyl group and the remainder of the molecule. As one example see the following compound in the reference:



wherein

R¹⁴ = R¹⁵ = hydrogen,

R¹³ = aliphatic; and

R¹¹ and R¹² form a heterocyclic ring by bonding to each other [0034].

Examples of the heterocyclic group formed by combining R¹¹ and R¹² to each other includes a pyrrolidine ring (which is a 5-membered ring), a piperidine ring (which is a 6-membered ring), a pyrazine ring (which is a 6-membered ring), a morpholine ring (which is a 6-membered ring), and a 1,2,4-triazole ring (which is a 5-membered ring) [0035]. The compounds of formula II meet the claimed compound when R⁸ is unsubstituted saturated or unsaturated aliphatic groups, and R⁹ is substituted or unsubstituted aromatic or heterocyclic ring.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7 and 27-31 are allowed. The reference of Sumioka does not teach the claimed non-polymeric compound as recited in claims 1 and 7, (i.e., the compounds of Sumioka have the additional –NR group between the carboxyl group and the remainder of the molecule.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

10. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Betelhem Shewareged whose telephone number is 571-272-1529. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8:00AM-4:30PM.


12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BS
November 19, 2007.


BETELHEM SHEWAREGED
PRIMARY EXAMINER